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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,161	05/21/2002	Marcos Katz	875.0012USU	7338

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EXAMINER	
PEREZ, JULIO R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2681	

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/018,161	KATZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Julio R Perez	2681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 November 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-34* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,6-8,10-16,18-28 and 32-34* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *3-5,9,17 and 29-31* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *11/01/01*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1- 2, 6-8, 10-16, 18-28, 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Keskitalo et al. (6345188).

Regarding claims 1 and 34, Keskitalo et al. teach a method and an apparatus for directional radio communication between a first station and a second station, the method and apparatus comprising the steps of; determining at the first station a set of one or more beam directions which are feasible for use in transmitting a signal from said first station to said second station using a signal received from said second station (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7, a radio signal detected from the mobile in terms of its highest quality level is received at the base station and in turn the base station deciding which best beam to point in the direction of the mobile within its coverage); selecting at said first station at least one of said beam directions for transmission of a signal from said first station to said second station, wherein the selection of the at least one direction for transmission is such that successive signals or groups of signals are transmitted in substantially different directions and such that on average each beam

direction available to said first station is used a substantially equal number of times (col.5, lines 45-67; col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53; Fig. 4, the beam is directed to the mobile from which the strongest radiation signal has been received; indeed, orienting the most favorable beam towards that mobile station; other beams being directed in other directions as called on the respective figure) .

Regarding claim 2, Keskitalo et al. a method wherein the direction of transmission from said first station to said second station is selected randomly from said set of feasible directions in a first random selection step (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7, the direction of the beam is decided in accordance to the strongest signal received at the base from the mobile, which could be browsing randomly within the radiation coverage of the cell site).

Regarding claim 6, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the at least one direction for transmission is selected from the set of feasible directions according to predetermined rules (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7, the direction of the beam oriented towards the mobile is directed in response to the reception of the strongest signal from the respective mobile station).

Regarding claim 7, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the at least one direction for transmission is selected by selecting the next feasible direction to that used in the preceding transmission (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7, the direction of the other beams may be selected for other beam directions and different mobile stations moving around the antenna coverage areas).

Regarding claim 8, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the selection process for successive transmissions steps through the set of feasible directions in a first direction (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7, possible directions are left over after one direction is used as the system provides multiple beams directions on its array antenna).

Regarding claim 10, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein signals are transmitted such that the directions selected alternate respectively from one side of the preceding direction to the other side, at least a predefined angular spacing from said first direction being maintained in each instance (col. 7, lines 1-67; Fig. 4, angular spacing is provided between beams in order to provide connection improvement in the base and mobile stations transmissions).

Regarding claim 11, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein a reference direction is defined and subsequent signals are transmitted such that the directions selected alternate respectively from one side of the reference direction to the other side, at least a predefined angular spacing from said reference direction being maintained in each instance (col.5, lines 45-67; col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53; Fig. 4, in the case of the CDMA system, the reference signal taken as the pilot signal would be taken as the reference for the base station reference to decide the strongest signal reception from the mobile and in turn direct the optimal beam towards the mobile station).

Regarding claim 12, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the at least one direction for transmission is selected for a given signal burst in a code division multiple access system (col. 5, lines 6-13, the system used is CDMA).

Regarding claim 13, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the at least one direction for transmission is selected for a given time slot in a time division multiple access system (col. 1, lines 24-35; col. 5, lines 6-13, the system is applicable to other type cellular systems).

Regarding claim 14, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the at least one direction for transmission is varied within a signal burst such that the at least one direction for transmission is selected for a component part of a signal packet or a time slot (col. 1, lines 24-35; col. 5, lines 6-13, the system is applicable to systems fro transmission of either packet data or voice).

Regarding claim 15, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein one beam direction is selected for the transmission of a signal from said first station to said second station (col.5, lines 45-67; col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53; Fig. 4, the beam signal is directed to a mobile, which, in turn, may be connecting to another).

Regarding claim 16, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein more than one beam directions are selected for the transmission of a signal from the first station to the second station (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7, possible directions are left over after one direction is used as the system provides multiple beams directions on its array antenna).

Regarding claim 18, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein at least one direction is selected for successive groups of signals and each group of signals comprises a predetermined number of time slots (col. 1, lines 24-35; col. 5, lines 6-13; col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 19, Keskitalo et al. a method, Wherein at least one direction is selected for successive groups of signals and each group of signals comprises a predetermined number of signal packets (col. 1, lines 24-35; col. 5, lines 6-13; col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 20, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein at least one direction is selected for successive groups of signals and each group of signals comprises a predetermined number of component parts of a signal packet or a time slot (col. 1, lines 24-35; col. 5, lines 6-13; col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 21, Keskitalo et al. a method, when used in a network comprising a plurality of network elements comprising at least a plurality of said first and second stations, said selection step additionally taking into account least one network criteria and/or at least one network element criteria (col. 6, lines 24-67, the system comprises several base stations and mobile stations within a determined coverage area; the best signal strength is one of the conditions for the beam to be directed to such mobile with the highest received level).

Regarding claim 22, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the selection step takes into account interference density in one or more directions (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53, CDMA is characterized for taking into account interference levels in the system).

Regarding claim 23, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the selection step takes into account power loading conditions of components within said first station (col. 6,

lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53, power conditions are likewise taken into consideration as is one of the characteristics of CDMA systems).

Regarding claim 24, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the selection step takes into account instantaneous power loading condition of components within the first station (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53, power loading conditions are likewise taken into consideration as is one of the characteristics of CDMA systems).

Regarding claim 25. Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein the selection step takes into account average power loading conditions of components within the first station (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53, power loading conditions are likewise taken into consideration as is one of the characteristics of CDMA systems).

Regarding claim 26, Keskitalo et al. a method as in claim wherein the selection step takes into account the bit-rates of multiple users connected to said first station (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53).

Regarding claim 27, Keskitalo et al. wherein the selection step takes into account the traffic conditions of each direction (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53).

Regarding claim 28, Keskitalo et al. a method according to any preceding claim, wherein the selection step takes into account the statistical loading of each direction (col. 6, lines 34-67; col. 7, lines 1-53).

Regarding claim 32, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein said first station is a base station (col. 5, lines 6-44, the system includes a mobile station).

Regarding claim 33, Keskitalo et al. a method, wherein said second station is a mobile station (col. 5, lines 6-44, the system includes several mobile stations).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3-5, 9, 17, 29-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach detecting means for selecting a second selection if the first selection has been selected on a first step.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the art with respect to radio communication directivity.

US Pat. No. 20010016504 to Dam et al. Handling radio signals in a radio base

US Pat. No. 6124824 to Xu et al. Adaptive antenna array systems

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julio R Perez whose telephone number is (703) 305-8637. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 703-308-4825. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JP
9/17/04

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